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REVIEWS AND BOOK NOTICES.

SURVEYS WEST OF THE 100TH MERIDIAN.—We have before us Lt. Wheeler's preliminary report of progress of the geographical and geological surveys, and explorations west of the 100th meridian in Nevada, Utah, Colorado, New Mexico and Arizona. The fourth season of field work was brought to a close in December last, when the parties returned to Washington to elaborate results. These surveys have been made to perfect and supplement each other in such a way that a vast extent of country has been covered in, from central California over a great part of Nevada, as far east as eastern Utah and south including Arizona. The initial work of surveys consists in the accurate mapping out of the public domain lying to the westward of the 100th meridian. To accomplish this, a number of skilled topographers and astronomers have been employed, whose successful efforts can hardly be overestimated in these particular lines. As collateral branches of the work, geology, mineralogy, chemistry, botany, ethnology and zoology, all have received due share of attention and large collections have been made, amounting to many thousands of specimens. In addition to these scientific subjects, the questions more especially bearing on political economy have been carefully discussed; such as methods of irrigation, mining, etc., the establishment of military posts, etc. Numerous photographs were taken representing the ancient as well as modern dwellings of the Indians, the geological formations, mountains, etc. A vast amount of manuscript is in hand ready for publication should Congress make the necessary and highly proper appropriations. Probably not less than fifty new species of insects, fish, etc., will be figured in the reports, which will consist of seven quarto volumes besides an atlas of maps, which is already near completion. From the maps we have seen, we judge that they are probably the best of the country ever made. This year's work will consist of labors in the mining district known as *Snab* in Colorado. The *personnel* of the party is nearly the same as heretofore, consisting of the following accomplished officers; among the names will be recognized several well known to naturalists:—Lt. G. M. Wheeler, Corps of Engineers in charge; Lt. W. M. Marshall, Corps of Engineers Astronomical; Lt. R. H.

Hogie, Corps of Engineers Meteorological; Dr. H. S. Yarrow, U.S.A., Surgeon and Naturalist; Dr. J. T. Rothrock, U.S.A., Surgeon and Botanist; Dr. Oscar Loew, Chemist and Mineralogist; H. W. Henshaw, Assistant Naturalist and Ornithologist; besides a corps of trained collectors.

The area gone over in 1873 was no less than 76,000 square miles, and Lt. Wheeler's work has probably not been surpassed for general accuracy and minuteness of detail. Dr. Yarrow's name, as that of the officer in charge of Natural History division of the work, is sufficient guarantee of the highly creditable manner in which that branch of investigation is conducted. His results, to many of which we have already enjoyed access, are of great interest and importance. It is to be earnestly hoped that this great and most important work may not be restricted for want of the funds needed for its completely successful prosecution.—ELLIOTT COUES.

CHECK LIST OF COLEOPTERA.*—A new and revised list of our beetles has long been needed, as a convenience in arranging our cabinets and facilitating exchanges. Its publication has also been necessitated by the numerous changes which have been made in synonymy, mostly based on comparisons made by Dr. LeConte in Europe, and others from examinations made by the author. Some important changes have been made in the arrangement of the families, the Coccinellidæ, Erotylidæ and Endomychidæ being placed in the Clavicorn series by Mr. Crotch, an important measure sanctioned by Drs. LeConte and Horn, while the weevils are placed at the end of the series in accordance with the views of Dr. LeConte.

DICTIONARY OF ELEVATIONS OF THE UNITED STATES.†—Though of special value to physicians, this book will be useful to those interested in the geographical distribution of plants and animals, as the elevations of many points, particularly in the Rocky Mountains, are given in a compact form. The Dictionary contains in

*Check List of the Coleoptera of America north of Mexico. By G. R. Crotch. Salem, Mass., Naturalists' Agency, 1874. 8vo, pp. 136. \$1.00.

†Dictionary of Elevations and Climatic Register of the United States; containing, in addition to elevations, the latitude, mean annual temperature, and the total annual rainfall of many localities; with a brief introduction on the orographic and other physical peculiarities of North America. By J. M. Toner, M.D. New York. Van Nostrand, 1874. 8vo, pp. 93. Price \$3.00 paper; \$3.75 cloth.